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Analysis:

This week, KCNA exploded with coverage of the growing tensions between North and South Korea, leaving little room for coverage of anything else—China included. However, KCNA did continue to cover such threads as the growing conflict between China and Japan, and China’s continued process of forging global relationships.

As statements of support from Chinese leaders and newspapers dwindle, KCNA seems to be leaning even harder than usual on amorphous groups of Koreans in China. Two such stories slammed Lee Myung Bak this week for his negative remarks about North Korean leadership, stating: “now is the time for the members of the Korean nation who are concerned about the destiny of the country and nation to turn out in the nationwide sacred war irrespective of affiliation, religious belief and political view to eliminate the Lee group at an early date.” If even the overseas Koreans are uniting behind the Kim family leadership, the logic goes, all the stronger should be support for the regime within the DPRK.

If direct statements of support have not been forthcoming from Beijing, Pyongyang has still shown support for the PRC in its own press by covering the increasingly troubled relationship between China and Japan. This time, the issue at stake revolved around the Japanese naming of Diaoyu/Takeshima, and its surrounding islets, which Hong Lei, spokesman for the PRC Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stressed was illegal. KCNA has been quite consistent in detailing the quarrels between China and Japan.

On the flipside, China continues to create and strengthen relationships with other countries in the region. In a larger story detailing instances of cooperation between countries worldwide, KCNA mentioned briefly a meeting between China and Cambodia which resulted in agreements to increase bilateral communication between the two nations, a marked contrast in the Manichean world of KCNA to “aggressive” Japan.

Finally, KCNA published a story detailing the meeting of the 5th session of the 11th National People’s Congress of China. For a meeting of the people’s congress, much of the story was dominated by information concerning government officials’ speeches. In fact, the speech that Premier Wen Jiabao gave dominated the dispatch. In his speech, Wen outlined the successes that China enjoyed in

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2011, as well as outlined plans for the future, which included: social harmony and stability, relatively rapid economic development, the modernization of the military, development of talent in science and an overall advancement of education, and finally the continued development of relationships with developing countries. While any summary of Wen's speech would almost have to mention the CCP leader's attention to "people's livelihood [民生], KCNA's repetition of Chinese Communist Party promises and achievements in the economic field is way both of conveying to the DPRK population that North Korea's top backer remains in a strong position to dispense copious aid, while at the same time lending a shred of hope to Chinese analysts that the watchwords of economic reform are getting a hearing among Pyongyang and North Korea's readers.

-- Evan Koepfler, Pacific Lutheran University

4 March 2012

No China related stories were published today.

5 March 2012

China Rebukes Japan for Naming Diaoyu Island Its Own Way

Beijing, March 4 (KCNA) -- Hong Lei, spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, at a press conference on Saturday rebuked Japan for naming the Diaoyu Island its own way.

The Japanese authorities made public the names of the Diaoyu Island and its surrounding islets which they made their own way on March 2, Hong said, expressing strong opposition to it.

It is illegal and invalid for the Japanese side to take unilateral measures on the Diaoyu Island and its surrounding islets, Hong stressed.

6 March 2012

5th Session of 11th NPC Opens in China

Beijing, March 5 (KCNA) -- The 5th session of the 11th National People's Congress of China opened at the Great Hall of the People Monday.

Present at the opening meeting were Hu Jintao and other leading cadres of the party and state of China and delegates.

Premier Wen Jiabao delivered a report on the work of the government.

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In his report he reviewed the work in 2011 and stressed the need to strive for preserving social harmony and stability this year by implementing in depth the scientific outlook on development under the banner of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

He set it as major tasks this year to promote a smooth and relatively rapid economic development, maintain basic stability of prices of goods, carry out the state strategy for development and the strategy for building a power in talents by dint of science and education and accelerate the great prosperity of culture.

Referring to the construction of national defense and army, he underscored the need to comprehensively push forward the revolutionization, modernization and regularization of the army and step up the ideological and political construction and consolidate the unity between the army and the government and the unity between army and people.

He noted that China will reinforce the foundation in political, economic, cultural and other fields for the development of cross-Strait relations and thus make further progress in promoting their peaceful development.

China will boost solidarity and cooperation with many developing countries, deepen the traditional friendship, steadfastly follow the road of peaceful development and maintain an independent and sovereign and peace-loving diplomatic policy, he concluded.

7 March 2012

Koreans in China Condemn Lee Myung Bak Group's Hideous Provocations

Pyongyang, March 7 (KCNA) -- The General Federation of Koreans in China in a statement on March 3 denounced the Lee Myung Bak group of traitors for perpetrating such hideous provocation as hurting the dignity of the supreme leadership of the DPRK.

The dignity of the peerlessly great men of Mt. Paektu is the life and soul of the Korean nation and dearer than the lives of all Koreans, the statement noted, and continued:

It is the unshakable determination of the DPRK not to show any mercy for those who defame the dignity of its supreme leadership but deal merciless sledge hammer blows at them wherever they go in this world.

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The Lee group which committed high treason will find neither place to hide nor breathing spell in this land and it is fated to meet only miserable deaths, warned the statement.

The Youth Federation of Korean Nationals in China and the Federation of Korean National Economic Workers in China in their statements on March 4 said:

The Lee group is utterly ignorant of the Korean people who always remain true to the idea and guidance of the dear respected Kim Jong Un, united as firm as a rock around him, believing and following General Secretary Kim Jong Il as Heaven.

The statements evinced their determination to make a clean sweep of the Lee group from the arena of history and carry on the struggle to the last to achieve national reconciliation and unity, peace and stability of the country and accomplish the historic cause of national reunification.

8 March 2012

Korean in China Calls for Wiping Out Lee Myung Bak Group of Traitors

Pyongyang, March 8 (KCNA) -- Jo Kuk Je, secretary-general of the General Association of Koreans in China, Monday made public a statement in support of the statement issued by a spokesman for the Supreme Command of the Korean People's Army.

The Korean nation's grudge and desire to retaliate the Lee Myung Bak group of traitors are sky-high, the statement said, and went on:

The group of Lee Myung Bak recklessly slandered and insulted the dignity of the supreme leadership of the DPRK, hysteria against the nation and hideous provocation of pushing the situation to an uncontrollable phase.

The group is the sworn enemy with whom Koreans can not live under the same sky and herd of traitors to be swept away with arms.

We will mercilessly smash anyone who seeks to slander and insult the dignity of the supreme leadership of the DPRK even a bit.

Now is the time for the members of the Korean nation who are concerned about the destiny of the country and nation to turn out in the nationwide sacred war irrespective of affiliation, religious belief and political view to eliminate the Lee group at an early date.

Cooperation among Different Countries

MARCH 2012

Pyongyang, March 8 (KCNA) -- China and Cambodia on March 5 met to pledge enhanced bilateral communication.

On the same day Indonesia and Cambodia agreed to boost cooperation on trade and investment.

Cuba and Algeria on March 1 signed agreements on cooperating with each other in the fields of health, sports, education and agriculture.

9 March 2012

No China related stories were published today.

10 March 2012

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